Silver Diamond

Volume 13: Chain Reaction

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ICHIRACI TOSUISHA SPECIAL COMICS

SILVER DIAMOND

Chain Reaction 13

SILVER DIAMOND 13

杉浦志保 SUGIURA SHIHO

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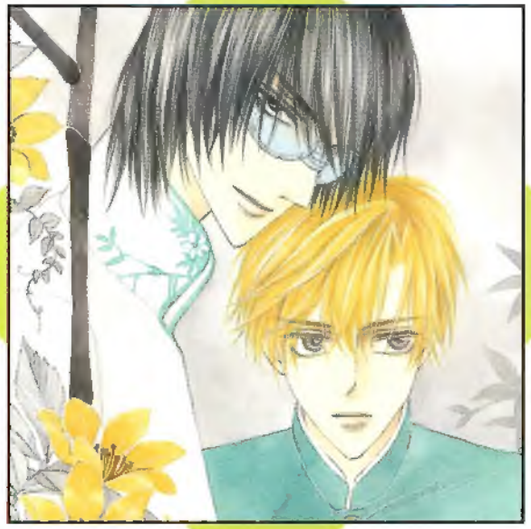
SILVER DIAMOND 13



ICHIRACI Comics

[Story]

An alternate universe fantasy. Kazuhi's group finally reunites with Rakan's party. Volume 13 is filled with highlights such as the wish to have a "flower viewing with everyone" being realized and the moving reunion of the Tohno brothers! Meanwhile, in order to fulfill her promise with Mitama, Sae has begun moving too?! Also included is Part 2 of the extra story, "Foreign Language"!!

SUGIURA SHIHO-SENSEI'S COMICS

SILVER DIAMOND ① ～ ⑬
ICE COLD DEMON'S TALE GAIDEN
CINDERELLA (BOY)
ISAGI—KOJIMA

〈TOSUISHA BUNKO〉
ICE COLD DEMON'S TALE
-14 VOLUMES COMPLETE

MOTTO!! ICE COLD DEMON'S TALE
~ILLUSTRATIONS & DATA FILE~

◆ Tosuisha Home Page ◆
http://www.tosuisha.co.jp/

◆ iMode Version Home ◆
http://www.tosuisha.co.jp/i/

● I had mentioned before that I wanted to add more "Oji-san" characters, but I hadn't planned to increase the number to this extent...At the end of the last volume, Rakan's group + his guards + Kinrei's guards = a total of 57 men, all gathered together in one place. What the heck. Though it wasn't because I wanted to make up for that that I drew girls on the cover, I just wanted to point out that there are female characters as well...

SILVER DIAMOND 13

杉浦志保 SHIHO SUGIURA

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SILVER DIAMOND

Alternate World: Capital
Will kill him no matter what
CHIGUSA SENROH
MAN FROM THE OTHER WORLD WITH AN IMMORTAL BODY. HE NEEDS THE POWER OF THE SANOME FOR HIS BATTLE.
Needs him
Feels that they share the same fate
RAKAN SAWA
A KIND-HEARTED HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A GARDEN THAT LOOKS LIKE A JUNGLE. HE HAS THE POWER OF THE SANOME TO GROW PLANTS AND HE LOOKS LIKE THE PRINCE OF THE OTHER WORLD.
The same face. Brothers?
THE PRINCE
THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON IN THE OTHER WORLD. CAN SEE THE FUTURE AND IS THE AYAME PRINCE.
Master & servant?
ENEMIES
KINREI KINGEN
THE ONLY ONE CLOSE TO THE PRINCE.
COLLABORATORS
Hihi...
KOH
NARUSHIGE SHIGEKA
THE ONLY MAN BORN OF THE SHIGEKA CLAN. KOH, A SNAKE, IS HIS COMPANION.
Like big brother (sister?!) & little brother
Valued friend
Valued friends
ISUKAKI
KURO
Pyhaha...
TOHJI TOHNO
A NUMBER CHILD USED BY THE PRINCE AND THOUGHT OF AS USELESS.
Real brothers
Mother & daughter
SAE
A NUMBER CHILD.
SHIGEKA CLAN
SHIGEYUKI
HEAD OF THE SHIGEKA CLAN.
KAZUHI
ACTS AS THE LEADER.
AKIICHI
A NUMBER CHILD.
FRIENDS
EX-FRONTIER GUARDS. NOW THE SANOME PRINCE'S GUARD.
Alternate World: Frontier

※Sanome: Someone who can grow plants at will.
Ayame: Someone who destroys plants and turns soil into sand.

◆ ONE DAY A MAN NAMED CHIGUSA FALLS IN RAKAN'S GARDEN FROM ANOTHER WORLD, AND STARTS TO CALL RAKAN, A BOY WHO CAN GROW PLANTS AT WILL, A "SANOME." RAKAN ALSO BEFRIENDS NARUSHIGE, KOH, AND TOHJI, A KILLER SENT BY KINREI, AFTER THEY TOO FALL INTO HIS WORLD. FEELING DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THE ALTERNATE WORLD, HE DECIDES TO GO THERE. ◆ AS RAKAN GOES ON A JOURNEY TO TURN THE OTHER WORLD GREEN, THE PRINCE MAKES A NEW PROPHECY AT THE CAPITAL, WHICH STRIKES RAKAN AND HIS FRIENDS. AFTER HE MAKES SURE THAT KAZUHI AND THE REST WHO HAD FALLEN INTO A CRACK IN THE GROUND, ARE UNHARMED, RAKAN PROMISES TO REUNITE WITH THEM, AND CONTINUES ON HIS JOURNEY. ◆ IN THE PALACE, THE PRINCE AWAKENS, AND THE THE SANOME FROM RAKAN'S GARDEN ALSO MAKES AN APPEARANCE, AND THE WORLD BEGINS TO STIR. RAKAN, WHOSE REPUTATION HAS SPREAD FAR AND WIDE, MAKES THE DECISION TO USE HIS STATUS AS THE SANOME PRINCE, SPREADING THE GREEN AND BRINGING HOPE TO ALL. KINREI TAKES CONTROL OF THE PRINCE, BUT IS MET WITH A COUNTERATTACK, AND THE PRINCE EVEN CUTS HIS OWN THROAT IN FRONT OF KINREI. ◆ MEANWHILE, KAZUHI'S GROUP HAS REACHED THE SURFACE, JUST IN TIME TO SAVE RAKAN'S PARTY, WHICH HAD BEEN AMBUSHED AND SURROUNDED BY KINREI'S GUARDS AT YAKUBO. WHAT WILL THEY DO AFTER REUNITING?!

FOR DETAILS PLEASE READ VOLUMES 1-12!

STORY&CASTS

※This page originally left blank.
Included for page numbering purposes.

Silver Diamond

On the arrow tips.
THERE'S AN ANESTHETIC APPLIED.
FLAP FLAP
DROP
GNOOO

ARE YOU ALL OKAY?
MHM.
WE SAW A LOT OF GREENERY ALONG THE WAY.
WAA
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
PRINCE!
RAKAN!
KAZUHI!
I'M SO GLAD ALL OF YOU ARE SAFE.
HEY, RAKAN!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DOING WELL, THAT'S GREAT

The Truth

HUG
EH!
UOOO

COME OVER HERE QUICKLY!
TOHJI!
He's your big brother!
EH?
UMM....
TOHJ,
HURRY UP AND GO OVER THERE.
. I DON'T KNOW...
AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO SAY,
UH,
UMM...
JUST GO.
BUT SAYING ANYTHING SHOULD BE FINE?
DOKI
AM NOT REALLY SURE.
ABOUT TH S. .
I TOO. .

HAVE NEVER SPOKEN TO MY YOUNGER SISTER...
I TOO...
BECAUSE,
...
TAP
TAP
TAP...
Long time no see!
HEY!
TOHJI!
HUH?
HE'S HIDING?!
AND BEHIND SENROH, TOO!
SHOOO
Reflexively...
ARE THEY YOUR FAMILY?
EH? WHAT~
I just have to say "hello"?
EH? GREET HIM?
JUST GREET HIM LIKE YOU NORMALLY WOULD
I'm not hiding.
TOHJI,

"MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE"?!
LIKE I'M A STRANGER?
HOW AMUS-ING—
I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE
JUST SAY "HELLO" ...
Um
Whoa
COME HERE!
TOHJI, DON'T WORRY,
GRAB
YOU'VE ALREADY MET HIM BEFORE!
EH, WHY?
AH, THAT'S TRUE
TOHJI, SORRY, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW YOU SAY IT...
OH.
HERE HE IS, KAZUHI.
Get to know each other!
Push
...
STEALTHILY

Wha...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

THAT TIME, AFTER I SHOVED ..." THEM AND VANISHED BEFORE THEIR EYES, I WANTED TO HURRY BACK TO THE CAPITAL,

BUT NOW I'M SUDDENLY BACK IN THIS PLACE, AND MOREOVER WITH THIS GROUP OF PEOPLE.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT, DIDN'T HE SAY I HAD "A BAD PERSONALITY"?!

WHAT WILL HE SAY TO ME THIS TIME?

HUG ♡

AND WHAT IS GOING ON OVER THERE?

WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO THEY HAVE—?!

※ This is even more eye-catching.

Fuump

!!

EH? HAKUBI?!

And what in the world are those stone dogs...

...HAAH?
THAT'S GREAT...!
...
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT,
WHEN WE WERE UNDER-GROUND,
AND SAID THAT HE WAS "ABANDONED BY KINREI" ..
HE SUDDENLY APPEARED,
WHY IS HE WITH YOU GUYS?
EH?
ISN'T THAT FELLOW YOUR ENEMY?
YES, HE IS.
BLUNT
I AM!
SO RUDE!
I CHOSE TO QUIT!!
EH? YOU WERE ABANDONED? ARE YOU NO LONGER USEFUL?
Poor thing..

BUT HE MADE THOSE THINGS FOR US,
WHICH WAS HOW WE WERE ABLE TO GET HERE SO QUICKLY.
HE CALLS US HIS ENEMIES,
That Bocchan
BUT YOU ESCAPED TO THE WRONG PLACE...?
He hit the target.
He hit the target
Shoo
SHUT UP!
YES,
HE SAYS KINREI CAN MAKE THEM TOO.
THOSE ARE... "STONE PUPPETS"?
FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE?
!
EH?
HAKUBI, YOU MADE THESE STONE DOGS?
NO, HE HAS NO ILL INTENT ...
...
WHY WOULD HAKUBI SPECIALLY MAKE THOSE FOR THEM?
IS HE PLANNING SOMETHING?
For example, pretending to become one of us.

I JUST WANTED TO CREATE A PUPPET FOR ME TO TRAVEL ON, SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE ONE FOR THEM TOO!!
BESIDES, THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO WALK ALL THE WAY, WHICH WAS INCREDIBLY STUPID!!
I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME EXCESS STONES FOR MAKING THE PUPPETS!
OF COURSE NOT...
WHY WOULD I DO THIS FOR THEM?!
Desperate Justification
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I AM FOREVER YOUR ENEMY!!
ZIIIING...
I'M YOUR ENEMY!
DON'T THANK ME!!
I SEE, THANKS ANYWAY.
...A LIE.
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU GUYS!!
YOU'RE REALLY A GOOD PERSON!
THAT'S A LIE.
SORRY FOR SAYING THAT YOU HAVE A BAD PERSONALITY
!
UGH ...
SO HE WAS THIS KIND OF PERSON.
What a weirdo.
Detected.

CAN'T WE STOP FOR A WHILE AND TALK?
CHI-GUSA,
ARE THERE ANY EMPTY HOUSES NEARBY?
OH, UM...
SO NOW WHAT?
AH...
OH!
IF NOT, I'LL GROW A ROOF OF TREES ALONG THIS STRETCH OF ROAD.
NO NEED...
THERE'S A VILLAGE WITH SOME EMPTY HOUSES FURTHER DOWN.
AH, REALLY?
YES, BUT, RAKAN...
...WATO-SAMA!

Them.

Oh, yeah.

OH, I TOTALLY FORGOT!

What should we do..?

THEY'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT US...

...

SORRY, WE WERE BUSY DISCUSSING SOME MATTERS.

...

...

...

DO YOU UNDER-STAND NOW?

Summary of everything that's happened.

.. SO THE SITUATION IS LIKE THIS...

I ADMIT THAT MUCH.
...SINCE YOU HAVE THAT KIND OF PRESENCE.
I KNOW YOU ARE A REAL SANOME,
AND THAT YOU COULD BE THE PRINCE'S YOUNGER BROTHER,
..SANOME BOY.
YES?
Ah!
THANK YOU...
HOWEVER, I DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING ELSE!
HAVE YOU ANY PROOF THAT KINREI-SAMA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "WIND DRAGONS"?
AND HOW CAN YOU PROVE THAT THE PRINCE WAS THE ONE WHO ABANDONED THE "NUMBER KIDS"?
AND LET THE WORLD PERISH ...?!
YOU SAY THAT THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL IS AN AYAME?
KINREI-SAMA WANTS TO ABANDON THE PEOPLE,

THE PART ABOUT COMING FROM "ANOTHER WORLD",
EVEN IF IT'S TRUE,
IS STILL HARD TO BELIEVE.
STONE PUPPETS, ASSASSINS ...
...THIS...
EVERYTHING ELSE YOU TOLD US ABOUT...
COULD ALL BE MADE UP "STORIES".
...LISTEN, BOY,
CHIGUSA WOULDN'T LIE TO ME!
...!
THAT YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED AND USED BY SENROH CHIGUSA!
...TO US, IT JUST SEEMS...
AT THE BEHEST OF THE KINGEN, WE HAVE BEEN THE BORDERLAND'S GUARDIANS,
FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS,

FOR FOUR, FIVE, GENERATIONS,
WE HAVE TAKEN THIS MISSION UPON OURSELVES.
EVEN IF THE WORLD IS SLOWLY BEING COVERED UP BY THE DESERT...
EVEN IF THE SANOME ARE NEARLY EXTINCT...
EVEN IF THE AYAME CONTINUE TO MULTIPLY...
WE PATROL THE VILLAGES,
DISTRIBUTE THE GAME WE HUNT,
EXTERMINATE AYAME, CAPTURE BANDITS,
ALWAYS PROTECTING THE PEOPLE...
ALL IN THE NAME OF KINGEN-SAMA!
WE STILL BELIEVE IN KINGEN-SAMA,
IN "GOD'S CHILD",
AND IN KINREI-SAMA.
THIS IS HOW WE HAVE LIVED THUS FAR,
THIS IS OUR PRIDE!

WE'VE NEVER HAD THE OPTION OF "DOUBTING KINGEN-SAMA"..!
SINCE THE START.
...
OJI-SAN.
I KNOW YOU'VE ALL BEEN LIVING LIKE THIS UP TILL NOW.
BUT, WE THE "NUMBER CHILDREN"
WHO GOT ABANDONED IN THE WASTELANDS TO FEND FOR OURSELVES, ARE ALSO A REALITY
THINK ABOUT IT.
HOW WOULD WE BENEFIT FROM LYING ABOUT BEING "ABANDONED BY THE PRINCE"?

YOU'RE THE LEADER OF THESE NUMBER CHILDREN?
WHAT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAN'T USE YOUR INSTINCTS TO TELL TRUTH FROM LIES?
THE FACT THAT I'M TALKING IS EVIDENCE ENOUGH...
YOU'VE LIVED A LONG TIME,
BUT, WHERE'S THE EVIDENCE?
YOU COULD SAY THAT
!
GRRR...
HE PUTS ALL OF HIS FOLLOWERS IN DANGER AS WELL. YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
AS TO HAVE BLIND FAITH WITHOUT PROOF,
IF A LEADER IS SO GULLIBLE
BECOMES NOTHING BUT NONSENSE TO US!
IF YOU CAN'T BACK UP WHAT YOU SAY, THEN WHATEVER EXPLANATION YOU GIVE,
IF YOU HAVE PROOF THEN SHOW US!
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT "THE PRINCE IS AN AYAME"?
THAT'S RIGHT

TOKI
...
KAZUKI,
IT'S NO USE TO SAY ANYTHING MORE.
We can't get through to these men.
.SORRY,
IT'S BECAUSE I'M HERE,
THAT THEY'RE UNABLE TO BELIEVE YOU.
DON'T SAY THAT. .
It can't be helped.
UMM...
IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE ...
Even normal.
THERE S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT
AND THEY WILL DOUBT US IN ANY CASE
THAT THE PRINCE IS AN AYAME
THAT'S RIGHT, WE REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF RIGHT NOW,

THE KINGEN ARE TRULY EXISTENCES TO BE PROUD OF.

TO THEM,

THESE PEOPLE HAVE USED THESE METHODS,

TO LIVE SERIOUSLY UP TILL NOW.

What should we do?
WHY DON'T WE JUST DUMPT THEM HERE?
Hold on
NO, WE AREN'T GOING TO KILL YOU GUYS,
IF YOU WANT TO KILL US, JUST KILL ME!
MAKING KINGEN THE BAD GUY:...
MEANS LOSING THEIR PRIDE FOR THEM...
Oh
WE CAN FIND A PATH THAT CAN'T BE REACHED FROM HERE,
AND ASK RAKAN TO CULTIVATE A FOREST TO SHIELD THEM FROM SIGHT
WE SHOULD FIRST KEEP THEM TIED UP,
SO THEY CAN'T CATCH UP TO US.
...AND SO?
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO HANDLE US?!
OJI-SAN,
AH, THAT'S RIGHT!
UM...
...
WHAT?
CAN I .
...ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?

DO YOU BELIEVE, THAT I'M A SANOME?
...
YES..
BUT EVEN THOUGH WE ADMIT YOU ARE THE "SANOME PRINCE",
THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL CANNOT BE AN AYAME!
THAT'S FINE,
....
I'LL JUST LEAVE IT THIS WAY.
I WAS THINKING
IF I LEAVE THE SEEDS HERE,
COULD YOU HELP ME DISTRIBUTE THEM?
JUST SCATTER THEM FAR AND WIDE.
EH?

MANUAL LABOR?!
"You mentioned before that we didn't have enough manpower
Hehe
"MAN-POWER"?
YUP...
AH,
THAT'S RIGHT
OF COURSE!
YOUR DUTY IS TO PROTECT MANKIND AND THIS WORLD, RIGHT?
LIKE I SAID!
YOU GUYS ARE THE FRONTIER GUARD, RIGHT?
WHAT "MAN-POWER" ...
WE'RE KINGEN-SAMA'S FRONTIER GUARD!
Who do you think you're talking to?
WHY SHOULD WE HELP YOU?
THEN, PLEASE USE MY STRENGTH, TO HELP YOU DO THAT.
I GUESS SO...

WHETHER OR NOT I'M THE PRINCE,
REGARD-LESS OF WHETHER THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL IS AN AYAME,
NO MATTER HOW KINREI REALLY IS,
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW,
IS TO NOT LET THIS WORLD PERISH.
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME AS A PRINCE,
I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR
PLANT THE SEEDS AND CULTIVATE MORE GREENERY
FOR EVERYONE
...
IN THIS RESPECT, WE SHOULD HAVE THE SAME GOALS, RIGHT?
...
PLEASE.

I GET IT...
WE'LL DO IT.
THANK YOU!!!
BUT,
IF WE GIVE THEM THE SEEDS,
THEY COULD VERY WELL CLAIM,
THAT THE SEEDS WERE "GIVEN BY THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL".
THEN WHAT WOULD WE DO?
!
WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
SUCH A DESPICABLE ACTION.
NO,
THESE MEN,
WOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT...
BECAUSE "SERVING" IS THEIR PRIDE.

THEN...
...
EVERY-BODY, PREPARE TO MOVE OUT
CHIGUSA!
PLEASE GIVE THE ORDERS WITH KAZUH.
SO IT'S LIKE THAT?
You can see that?
Ah, I can't see that from their aura
THEY SHOW NO MERCY TO THEIR ENEMIES, BUT,
THEY ARE LOYAL TO THOSE THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO PRO-TECT
OH—
THEN, KAZUKI IS IN CHARGE OF FINDING EMPTY HOUSES,
And Tohji
LOOK FOR A PATH THAT THEY WON'T USE.
O!
NARU-SHIGE, TAKE CHARGE OVER HERE.
GOYOU, YOU GUYS KEEP WATCH.
YES SIR.
RAKAN, PREPARE THE SEEDS.
OK.
AKIICH, COULD YOU HELP ME?
OKAAAY
Use the leaves to make a large bag.
AH, RAKAN, YOUR BACKPACK
MAY I BORROW IT FOR A WHILE?
HM?
OH, YEAH, THAT'S FINE...
Right, I had it with me.
GRAB

FLIP
His third eye.
Waaah
...
THAT'S
CAN IT LOOK VERY FAR AWAY, LIKE CHIGUSA'S?
YEP
EHHHH?
EHHHHH...?!
Can you see what's in my big brain?
Yes
I'LL LET YOU TAKE A LOOK.
EH?
OH YEAH, TOUJI, COME OVER HERE.
your sore-head
BUMP
* SLIGHTLY SURPRISED
THEY'LL STILL CATCH UP,
EVEN IF WE LEAVE THIS PLACE,
SO WON'T THAT BE THE SAME?
HM?
He misunderstood.
How fun. let's leave him be
MIYA!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING? COULD THEY POSSIBLY BE...?!

KAZUKI IS FINDING THE ROAD RIGHT NOW.
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT
SO THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO FOLLOW OUR FOOTSTEPS.
Route
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT IT'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS WE MAKE IT ACROSS A FEW PLACES WHERE THE GROUND SPLIT OPEN.
Split open ground
Current location
WE CAN RIDE THE STONE PUPPETS.
WHAT'S THAT THING?
How pretty
And shiny.
THAT'S WHAT TOHJI WORE...
A high school boy who carries handcuffs with him.
I HEARD THAT IT WAS SOMETHING RAKAN LIKED.
HOW UNPLEASANT TO HEAR..
The, wonder they got it?
WAH, A DEVICE RAKAN LIKES.
How cool!
IT'S A "DEVICE" FROM RAKAN'S WORLD.
IS A TOY YOUR GRANDFATHER LIKED?
EXTEND YOUR HANDS
YEP.
EH—
What a strange item.

...

IT'S REALLY SOMETHING...

I'VE NEVER SEEN...

KA-KLICK

AND USE THIS KEY TO OPEN IT.

KLACK

YOU WEAR IT LIKE THAT.

EH?

DO YOU UNDER-STAND ITS STRUCTURE NOW?

NO.

IS IT PROOF OF THE OTHER WORLD?

SO WHAT'S THAT?

YOU ARE INDEED. .

A VERY BAD PERSON.

HEH.

I'M JUST WORRIED YOU'LL CATCH UP TO US.

KLACK

...

TIED UP AGAIN

SSSSP

NARU-SHIGE,

PLEASE JUST CUT THE VINES ON HIS BODY.

TSCHING!

GOT IT.

FLAP!

TSUBAKI!

Yes?

AFTER WE'VE WALKED SOME DISTANCE,

...?

I'LL ASK A BIRD JUST LIKE THIS ONE TO SEND THE KEY OVER

CRUMBLE

IT WAS CUT?!

!

USE THAT BLACK SWORD OVER THERE TO DO IT.

Confiscated.

ONCE THE BIRD HELPS YOU WITH THE HANDCUFFS,

YOU CAN CUT THE OTHERS FREE.

COUGH
WATO-SAMA,
NO ONE CAN GUARANTEE THAT THIS FELLOW WILL SEND THE KEY OVER...!
THAT'S TRUE
JUST LIKE..
...
WHY ARE THEY TAKING ALL THIS TROUBLE...
"SENROH CHIGUSA"...
AND THE RUMOUR ABOUT H M BEING A "MONSTER" DON'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH IN COMMON..
He heard!
HOW YOU TAKE PRIDE AND GLORY...
BEING UNDER "KINGEN'S" NAME,
YOU. .
REALLY ARE A STRANGE PERSON. .
SWEAR THAT I AM NOT LYING.
I, TOO, UNDER RAKAN'S NAME,
YOU...
...

WHY DID YOU...
ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL?
BECAUSE THAT PRINCE IS AN AYAME.
...
I WILL NOT.
URGE YOU TO BELIEVE WHAT I SAY,
SINCE,
I AM DEFINITELY THAT "SENROH CHIGUSA"
HOWEVER,
RAKAN ..
TRULY WANTS TO RESTORE THE GREENERY IN THIS WORLD,
YOU MUST BELIEVE HIM.
THOUGH I AM "SENROH CHIGUSA",
I REALLY LIKE THIS ASPECT OF RAKAN.
Snap...
Snap
Snap
Snap

FSSSH...
HE IS MY...
MOST IMPORTANT SANOME PRINCE.

GRAB
Really, what are you bragging about, man?
CHIGUSA!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, IT'S EMBARRASSING!
Why did you say I was scared of ghosts!
DRAG DRAG DRAG
MOREOVER, RAKAN IS AN EXCELLENT COOK,
BUT VERY AFRAID OF GHOSTS,
OKAY, STOP TALKING, LET'S GO!
AND EVEN SHRIEKS OUT—
Shrieks?
NO, HE'S A WEIRD PERVERT...!!
HE'S DEFINITELY A WEIRDO.
SO, EVERYONE
Tied up.
THAT'S ENOUGH, JUST GO!
Sorry, I shouldn't treat my seniors this way-
SAYING TAKE CARE SEEMS A BIT STRANGE, BUT,
PLEASE TAKE CARE..

What are you guys saying?
WE AREN'T "OLD MEN" EITHER!!
Just go already, you brats!
YOU GUYS CALLED ME "OLD MAN" BEFORE.
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, "OLD MAN" IS A DESCRIPTION FOR THOSE UNCLES.
Not me!
mut-mut-
mut-mut
mut-mut
what does that mean?
SE-NIORS?
IT MEANS SENIOR CITIZENS.
I HOPE THAT YOU GUYS REMEMBER,
THAT SOMEONE SAID THESE WORDS.
CONCERNING THE PRINCE IN THE CAPITAL,
I KNOW YOU DON'T BELIEVE MY WORDS, BUT,
AH, THERE'S ONE MORE THING
WHAT!
ANYHOW, JUST BE CAREFUL OF THE PRINCE AND KINREI!
Bye!
STOP BAD-MOUTHING THEM!
OK..
HOWEVER YOU DECIDE IS STILL UP TO YOU.
BYE.
Got it

WATO-SAMA.
THAT SENROH
WILL HE REALLY ASK THAT BIRD TO SEND THE KEY OVER?
...
WITH-OUT US REALIZ-ING.
TREES HAVE GROWN EVERY-WHERE.
FSSH...
STRUGGLE
WHAT A STRANGE GROUP OF PEOPLE.
Really strange.
THEY LEFT THE BOWS, ARROWS AND SWORDS BEHIND.
OOF!
IF HE DOESN'T IT'S NO MATTER,
I WILL THINK OF SOME-THING.
..
THAT'S RIGHT
WATO.
SO WE MUST CATCH UP TO THEM.
BUT, THEY WANT TO ATTACK THE PRINCE AND KINREI-SAMA.
WILL THEY SEND OVER
THE BIRD AND THE KEY?

GREEN...?
WHATEVER THE CASE, EVERYONE BESIDES THE KINGEN,
AND ANYONE KINREI-SAMA REGARDS AS AN ENEMY,
WE CAN'T TRUST ANY OF THEM...

...

FSs...
FSss
FSss...
WSs
SANOME...?
PRINCE!

PAIN!
PRINCE,
PLEASE LIE DOWN AND DO NOT MOVE
!
YOU STILL NEED TO RECUPERATE,
THE WOUND ON YOUR NECK HAS NOT YET CLOSED FULLY.
KACHAK
...
...
...
PRINCE,
SO WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY CUT YOURSELF?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER,
FROM NOW ON,
PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR ACTIONS BEFORE DOING ANYTHING.

BUT, THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT.
BECAUSE YOU SUDDENLY STOPPED TREASURING ME.
ONCE I DIE IT MEANS I'M DEAD
I ALMOST FORGOT,
PLEASE DON'T FORGET...
THIS KIND OF THING.
IF YOU DIE,
THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
AH!
THAT'S TRUE!
IT WAS FINE..
I THOUGHT AS LONG AS I HAD BLOOD,
BECAUSE
. THAT'S RIGHT
IT IS MY FAULT

I DON'T WANT
TO EVER
LET YOU DIE AGAIN
NO.
BECAUSE YOUR DEATH WOULD CAUSE COMPLICATIONS FOR ME
ARE YOU THINKING OF HELPING ME RECOVER SO YOU CAN STEAL MY BLOOD AGAIN?
THEN_
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE PLANTS?
YOU FOOL!
"PRINCE"
WHAT ARE YOU "TRYING TO DO"?
"PRINCE"
CAN YOU STILL PROTECT YOURSELF IN DEATH?
PROTECT WHAT?
"TO PROTECT YOURSELF"?
IF YOU DIE WHAT MORE CAN YOU DO?
WHY DID YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
HOW DOES THIS BENEFIT YOU IN ANY WAY?
THIS TITLE

TO MOLD HIM INTO...

THE "CHILD OF GOD".

IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT THERE WAS AN AYAME THERE,

I ADORNED HIM WITH THIS TITLE.

SO, LIKE A DECORATOR,

THIS TITLE HAS ONLY...

ONE "SIDE" TO IT.

FROM NOW ON,

YOU WILL TREASURE ME A LOT?

"DON'T WANT TO EVER LET ME DIE AGAIN?"

THEN... DO YOU MEAN,

A VERY GREAT INTEREST

AN INTEREST IN YOU HAS ARISEN IN ME.

I CAN'T HELP IT.

AN "INTEREST"

BECAUSE.

AND NOW?!

UP UNTIL NOW.

ONLY JUST NOW?!

NOW

I ONLY REGARDED YOU AS AN AYAME CREATURE TO MAKE USE OF

Honestly.

PRINCE.

NOW

I REGARD YOU AS THE PRINCE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME...

WHAT?
NO
JUST OBEDIENTLY LISTEN TO MY WORDS!
IF YOU DON'T WISH FOR ME TO DIE.
YOURS IS A "LIFE" I DO NOT WANT TO LOSE...
TO BE ANYONE'S SERVANT
I ALSO DO NOT WANT..
PRINCE,
THEN, FROM NOW ON,
CAN'T WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ONE ANOTHER'S STRENGTHS?
PRINCE...
..
I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF THINKING,
SO I CANNOT WHOLLY, PRESENT MYSELF TO YOU.

...
THEN IT CANNOT GIVE RISE TO EXTRAORDINARY POWER, RIGHT?
IF IT IS NOT MIXED WITH HUMAN BLOOD, ROCKS OR BONES,
YOUR BLOOD CANNOT LACK THAT OF A HUMAN'S.
FOR YOU AND I,
STANDING ON OUR OWN WOULD MAKE US INCOMPLETE.
AS WELL AS HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR DESIRES.
AND I WILL WATCH OVER YOU,
PLEASE GIVE SOME OF IT TO ME,
I WANT YOUR BLOOD,
AND I NEED IT, FROM NOW ON.
IF I EVER BETRAY YOU AGAIN,
YOU CAN DEAL WITH ME HOWEVER YOU WANT.
...
KINREI
IF YOU EVER...
IF YOU WANT TO MEET YOUR "LITTLE BROTHER",
DO YOU WANT TO PLAY WITH HIM,
AND THEN KILL HIM WITH YOUR OWN HANDS?
I WON'T STOP YOU ANYMORE.

IT MAY BE SELFISH, BUT,
THIS IS HOW I FEEL RIGHT NOW
DO YOU AGREE?
BUT, IF YOU BETRAY ME,
I WILL NOT SHOW YOU MERCY.
BUT STILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE ME?
OR,
WILL YOU WONDER IF I'M LYING TO YOU,
IT'S ALL A VERY FUN GAME.
WHETHER OR NOT IT'S THE TRUTH,
I WILL NOT BELIEVE YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY.
BUT,

A "GAME".
THAT'S RIGHT, LET'S PLAY, THE TWO OF US.
YES, IT IS A GAME.
TO FULFILL EACH OTHER'S DESIRES.
YES.
WE WILL MAKE USE OF EACH OTHER.
IF YOU BETRAY ME NEXT TIME, WE WILL REACH AN IMPASSE.
I WILL DRAIN YOUR BLOOD AND NOT LEAVE A SINGLE DROP.
WHEN THAT HAPPENS.
FINE,
PLEASE DO SO.
THEN, IT IS DECIDED.
WILL PLAY TO OUR HEART'S CONTENT.
THE TWO OF US.
WE WILL COMBINE OUR "STRENGTH" BY WORKING TOGETHER.
THAT'S RIGHT

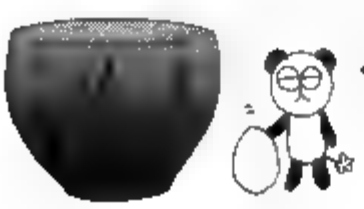
LET US TREAT THE WORLD LIKE A TOY,
AND PLAY TOGETHER.

※This page originally left blank.
Included for page numbering purposes.

GRAB A FISTFUL OF SAND,
POUR WATER ON THE ROOTS,
GROW THE SEEDLING...
SOFT GRASS, LIGHT GREEN, DEEP GREEN,
PEACHES, JAPANESE YELLOW ROSES DEEP PURPLE COLOURS,
FLOWERS IN FULL BLOOM, BUSTLING ACTIVITY, PEOPLE LAUGHING HAPPILY.

Chain Reaction

Hey everybody! This time I actually drew a girl on the cover, it was my first time I'm so happy I was afraid that next time I wouldn't have the chance to draw in colour, so I decided to draw three people all at once! Next time I'll obediently draw Chigusa and Rakan again (the composition has already been decided)



An Egg for Comparison

This time it's also very rushed
← However, recently I bought a bowl (I really wanted to draw it), and I used it to hold many different kinds of delicious soup! It's such a cute bowl! Love! It can carry so many types of soup! How cute!

THIS PLACE SHOULD BE SAFE.
YEP
THE FRONTIER GUARD WE MET EARLIER WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH UP
IN THE HOUSE,
THERE ARE A LOT OF USEFUL THINGS LEFT BEHIND.
Maternal drive.
THEN, I'LL GET CLEANING.
Okaaay
YOU GUYS HELP HIM.
Let's make a courtyard!
OKAY.
WE'LL MAKE A REST STOP HERE FOR A WHILE
OKAY!
OK
WE'LL GO HAVE A LOOK AROUND THE PLACE.
And see if there are any unusual conditions

OK
KURO SHOULD STAY HERE BY RAKAN'S SIDE
Got it
HM..
PUT TWO IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE AND TWO AT THE REAR.
SENRIOH!
WHERE SHOULD WE STATION THE STONE PUPPETS?
Let them keep watch.
THE JAMON OVER THERE, COME HERE TOO.
JAMON, OVER HERE!
Come here
What about this one?
JAMON, OVER HERE!
SO THAT JAMON SHOULD BE AT THE BACK?
Follow me
...
EH? YES,
BECAUSE WE NAMED THE STONES "JAMON" BEFORE CREATING THEM.
Hakubi did.
ALL THEIR NAMES ARE "JAMON"?

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE PUPPETS, THEY CAN MOVE,

BECAUSE WITH FOUR WE WOULD GET MIXED UP, MORE-OVER,

WHY?

EH?

GIVE THE STONE PUPPETS NAMES?

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO..

GIVE THEM EACH A NAME?

LET'S NAME THEM THEN!

THAT'S TRUE

NOR-MALLY, EACH ONE SHOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT NAME

CHOOSING WORDS?

AH, MORE LIKE HE'S GOOD AT CHOOSING WORDS.

HE'S REALLY GOOD AT NAMING.

EH? MIYA?

YEAH.

WE'LL ASK MIYA HOW TO NAME THEM LATER.

He likes "this" kind of thing.

HE ALSO HELPED US CHANGE OUR NAMES.

I REMEMBER, "KAZUHI" WAS A NAME MIYA CAME UP WITH.

OH, SO IT'S LIKE THAT.

SINCE HE LIKES READING,

HE KNOWS A LOT OF WORDS.

WOW .

KAZUHI MEN-TIONED THAT

Literal meaning.
OTAKU?
WHAT'S AN OTAKU?
Otaku?
IT'S
word Otaku?
YOUR HOUSE?
WHERE DID YOU LEARN THAT WORD FROM? KOH...
It does fit well, though.
THAT KIND OF PERSON
WOULD HE BE CALLED A "WORD OTAKU" ?
SLITHER
Something like that
YES,
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THEN THAT PERSON WOULD BE CALLED A "SOMETHING OTAKU" RIGHT?
A PERSON WHO LIKES A CERTAIN THING VERY MUCH.
TA-DAAAH
THAT'S NOT RIGHT, IS IT?!
Can it be used like that?
Then...
IS HE A RAKAN OTAKU?
THAT'S RIGHT!

"OTAKU"

UM, "OTAKU" MEANS

"A PERSON WHO IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN A CERTAIN THING, AND UNDERSTANDS THAT THING A LOT.

BUT LACKING IN COMMON SENSE WHEN IT COMES TO SOCIETY."

IT REALLY IS A VERY FITTING DEFINITION!

IT'S TOO GOOD!

THESE FELLOWS ARE REALLY TERRIFYING!

This electronic dictionary...

is only telling one side of it

They dare talk to Senroh like that!!

Hm, it seems very true.

VERY IMPOLITE.

RIGHT?

AH, TSUBAKI!

HE SAYS THAT THE OTHER TSUBAKI

AH, THANK YOU.

IS ON IT'S WAY.

Caw

DECOMPOSITION
ARE THEY MADE THE SAME WAY AS THE STONE PUPPETS?
OH NO,
THEY ARE MADE UP OF ROCKS, LEAVES AND SUCH.
Tsubaki (Large)
Decomposition
Tsubaki (Small)
Tsubaki (Small)
Tsubaki (Small)
IS THIS KIND OF BIRD.
THAT BIRD..
I've never seen it before
THAT BIRD... IS IT A BIRD?
BECAUSE THEY ARE ACTUALLY ONE BIRD.
THAT REMINDS ME,
THEY'RE ALL CALLED "TSUBAKI" TOO...
SO THEY AREN'T THE SAME ANYMORE.
I GUESS SO
IT SEEMED LIKE THAT AT FIRST, BUT.
NOW ALL OF THEM HAVE SMALL DIFFERENCES
I've been thinking about this for a while...
SO DO THEY SHARE THE SAME CONSCIOUSNESS?
LIKE THEIR CHARACTER OR HEART...

COULD WE GIVE YOU...
A DIFFERENT NAME?
A name?
DO YOU WANT YOUR OWN NAME?
THIS TSUBAKI IS THE ONE THAT STAYS WITH US.
SO IT'S DEFINITELY NOT THE SAME AS THE OTHERS.
IS THAT SO,
TSUBAKI?
Just me?
MM, YES,
A WAY TO CALL JUST YOU.
"TSUBAKI" WAS THE ORIGINAL NAME, SO,
LET'S GO WITH "TSUBAKI + SOME-FIRST-NAME"
HOW SHOULD WE DO IT?
OKAY
HE SAYS HE'S VERY HAPPY.
REALLY? THEN LET'S THINK ONE UP.

HE'S REALLY HAPPY
Something I like?
Something like
Hm.
OH? HOW CUTE.
"Things I like"
COULD WE CHOOSE FROM THE COLORS OR THINGS THAT HE LIKES?
TSUBAKI, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU FEEL IS BEST.
We'll decide in a while
THAT SANOME IS...
REALLY A STRANGE PERSON...
WHY MUST WE SPECIALLY THINK UP A NAME FOR IT..
FROM WHAT I CAN SEE,
THAT BIRD SEEMS JUST LIKE THE STONE PUPPETS...
TAP
Got it
SURE!
CAN YOU HELP ME CLEAN UP THE BATH-ROOM?
There are three
RATTATI
EVERYONE!

THAT'S A GOOD LESSON
OF COURSE QUICKLY COME AND HELP
PULL
PULL
EH, DO I HAVE TO GO TOO?!
Keeping watch on Chippa
WOW THEY'RE GROWING EVEN BIGGER
IT'S STILL SHOCKING EVERY TIME I SEE IT
F...
W...

WE GOT A HUGE HARVEST.
Meat♥
You're back!
OH, IT'S KAZUHI AND THE OTHERS.
HEY,
WE'RE BACK.
HUH?
HEY,
Thanks, that we may eat you...
THEY LIVE IN CAVES OR IN THE GROUND.
THIS IS PRETTY SMALL, ACTUALLY ...
LIWA, AMAZING...
Lizard..?
HOW LARGE...
FROM THE KINGEN FRONTIER GUARD
It was a trade♥
WE BROUGHT A FEW ALONG
THESE?
THOSE BLACK SWORDS AND EYE-WEAR

A Barter
AMONG THOSE PEOPLE,
HALF OF THEM WORE THESE.
WHAT ARE THESE SPECTACLES .NO, EYE-WEAR, USED FOR?
WANT TO SEE?
EH?
TRY IT ON AND SEE.
THAT'S RIGHT
THEN JUST TAKE IT!
"Even if we say no, you'll still do it right?"
"Can I trade my sword for yours?"
Completely Unable to Move
Should I stop him?
THERE, OPEN YOUR EYES
CLICK
Tie thus at the back
JUST WEAR IT LIKE THIS.
CLICK
HM.
A TELESCOPE?
AH, I CAN SEE MUCH FURTHER AWAY
. .AND IT'S EVEN MUCH BRIGHTER AS WELL!

WHAT ARE THESE?
THESE UNIMAGI-NABLE GLASSES?
IT'S CALLED A TELESCOPE.
AH, SO IT IS A TELESCOPE.
IT'S MADE USING THE EYES OF AYAME
AH...?
What did you say...?
EH? REALLY?
YES,
AS FAR AS I KNOW..
THEY TAKE OUT THE EYEBALLS OF DEAD AYAME,
LET THEM DRY UP AND BECOME SOMETHING LIKE A CLEAR STONE...
So it hardens.
AND THEN THEY FIT IT INTO THE EYEWEAR TO USE.

I'm taking it off
YEAH, IT DEPENDS ON THE EYEBALL.
THIS ONE IS EVEN BETTER, IT CAN DO BOTH.
WHILE SOME CAN SEE THINGS BRIGHTER AND CLEARER.
SOME CAN SEE GREAT DISTANCES.
THEY USE IT AS A LENS?
You talked about eyeballs so casually...
EVEN IN THE DARK IT SEEMS REALLY BRIGHT. .
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WAS CARVED OUT OF BONE.
THEN, SENROH, WHAT ABOUT THIS SWORD?
Rakan, let me see, let me see
AMAZING!
It's a science fiction eyepiece
But it's an eyeball...
I'D BETTER NOT LISTEN.
AH, I HAVE A FEELING.
THAT IS A FINE BLADE,
IT WAS MADE USING A DEAD AYAME'S.
I THOUGHT IT WASN'T BAD SO I TOOK IT ALONG.
!!....
YES,
.BODY, WHICH WAS MELTED AND THEN MOLDED INTO A SWORD.

Sure enough...
BODIES?
Just like before
YOU REALLY KNOW A LOT.
THE BODIES OF AYAME ARE MADE UP OF HARD SCALES,
Even after they die
AND THEY BECOME MALLEABLE AFTER MELTING
WHAT KIND OF BODIES DO AYAME HAVE?
I'm talking about their composition.
THEIR ARMS AND LEGS ARE THE SAME,
THEY REMAIN HARD AFTER DEATH,
AFTER HAMMERING IT FLAT AND SHAPING IT INTO A SWORD, THE RESULT IS WHAT YOU HAVE THERE
Imagination.
EH, IS IT LIKE THIS?
SO THEY CAN BE USED TO CONSTRUCT FENCES,
OR WINDOW GRILLES.
AH, THERE WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE PALACE.
SO THOSE WERE ACTUALLY AYAME LEGS!
I saw black fences before
I SEE,
NO WONDER THEY DON'T WITHER WHEN AYAME TOUCH THEM.
THEIR SKIN REMAINS HARD AFTER THEY DIE...?
...
AH, THERE'S NO WAY...

OH, EVERYONE'S HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU ALL TALKING ABOUT HERE?
ARE THEY... ...LIKE CRAB LEGS?
Alaskan king crab.
THAT'S RIGHT, THEY SEEM TO BE LIKE CRABS.
crab legs- are really difficult to eat
AH, CRABS...
CRABS?
OH, NO. NEVER MIND...
THIS IS MEAT
AH, THANKS.
Here, take it
OH YEAH, DO YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS KIND OF THING?
EH?
OF COURSE, I CAN CLEAN IT THOROUGHLY.
You seem like an upper-class person
WHY DO YOU ASK?

THEY REALLY.
TRIED TO TEACH HIM THINGS LIKE THAT.
Two guys.
He always said that handling them was very disgusting.
WE CAUGHT QUITE A FEW WHILE UNDER-GROUND.
That kind of person.
Just like those that are raised in the capital.
THE BOCCHAN CAN'T.
...
EH,
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
"FISH"? HOW RARE..
HUH?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT, THIS PLACE HAS BARELY ANY RIVERS.
WHAT ABOUT RAKAN?
I've never tried a lizard before.
Um..
I CAN CLEAN FISH...
"SEAS"?
DOES THIS WORLD...
...HAVE "SEAS"?

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS EITHER
NO...
NARUSHIGE, DO YOU KNOW?
It's written like this
CHIGUSA?
I DON'T KNOW IT EITHER
EH?
WHAT ARE THOSE?
THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY SEAS. .?
They don't even know what a sea is?
?
PEARL?
ISN'T IT WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR PEARL?
YES?
OH?
BUT, THE "MITAMA" FROM "MITAMA-SAMA"
THEY'RE JUST LIKE "LAKES" BUT EVEN BIGGER...
WHAT IS A "SEA"?
WAIT, DOES THE WORD "LAKE" EXIST?
I've come across it in books
AH, YES.
WHAT ARE SHELLS?
How do you write that?
EH? YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE ARE EITHER?
PEARLS, THEY'RE ..
OBTAINED FROM THE SHELLS OF OYSTERS
THEY'RE WHITE AND ROUND VALUABLE STONES.

UM, I CAN'T SAY THAT THERE'S NO END TO A SEA, BUT...
LIKE THE GROUND, THE "WATER" SEEMS UN-ENDING, LIKE A HUGE AND DEEP LAKE
EH?
SO, "SEAS" ARE EVEN LARGER THAN LAKES?
OH.
I'VE HEARD THAT "LAKES" WOULD BE EVEN BIGGER THAN THAT
I think there were lakes in the past
WASN'T THERE THE WILL-O'-WISP* SWAMP?
*ORIGINALLY TRANSLATED AS THE AURORA SWAMP
SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES AT THE END

SO THIS IS A WORLD WITHOUT SEAS.
I HAD THOUGHT, THAT THE WORLD HERE WAS VERY SIMILAR TO "MY ORIGINAL WORLD",
SO I BELIEVED THERE WERE "SEAS" HERE TOO...
Despite the desert
REALLY?
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT.
YEAH.

HEY, WE'RE DONE WITH THE CLEANING SO WHAT NEXT?
RAKAN, I GATHERED SOME LEAVES AND FRUITS,
ARE THEY ENOUGH?
For cooking
Oh... THANKS!
OH, KAZUH AND THE REST ARE BACK.
HEY!

THAT'S GREAT, WE CAN BATHE!
HURRAY!
WHEN WE WERE UNDER-GROUND,
WE DIDN'T GET TO BATHE!
YAY!
OKAY, FOR ALL THREE BATHROOMS?
YES, WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE
GOT IT
go draw water from the well first
THEN LET'S SPLIT UP THE WORK,
YOU GUYS HEAT UP THE BATH-WATER?
Ah...
YOU'RE SMILING.
TRAINING CAMP...? WHAT'S THAT?
A TRAINING CAMP?
Hm...
THE ATMO-SPHERE HERE...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE A "TRAINING CAMP"
UH, IT'S UM
IF I TRY TO EXPLAIN THAT IT'S A COMMUNITY ACTIVITY...I'M AFRAID THAT WILL BE TOO CONFUSING,
AND I CAN'T SAY IT'S LIKE OUTDOOR CAMPING...
Umm...

"FRIENDS"
"THAT LIVE AND PLAY TOGETHER"?
SAYING THAT IT'S "MANY PEOPLE LIVING TOGETHER"
"FRIENDS THAT LIVE AND PLAY TOGETHER"
SOME-THING LIKE THAT
AH
I KNOW..
ALSO LACKS THE RIGHT FEELING
They are currently on the way to the capital, the objective being to stop the evil actions of the ayame prince, and also to help restore the world's greenery.
...
HOW HAPPY..
MM, OF COURSE IT ISN'T SO CAREFREE.
I WAS JUST REFERRING TO THE ATMOSPHERE WE HAVE TOGETHER.

HM. .
IT IS REALLY HAPPY.
YEAH.
THIS KIND OF ATMO-SPHERE IS REALLY NICE.
MMHM.
THEN, SHOULD WE START PREPARING DINNER?
OH!
SORRY NARU-SHIGE, CAN YOU TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR TODAY'S DINNER?
AND GET SOME OTHERS TO HELP .
EH?
OF COURSE,
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF A FEW MORE THINGS,
IN THE COURTYARD.
AH...
SO IT'S LIKE THAT...
EH?
KAZUHI, YOU GUYS SHOULD GO BACK TOO.
I WANT ALL OF YOU TO GO INTO THE HOUSE,

He's going to
OH, I GET IT...
Why must we shut the windows?
DON'T TELL ME RAKAN IS GOING TO BE OUTSIDE ALL ALONE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AND CLOSE ALL THE WINDOWS.
HUH?!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE US FEEL ANY BETTER.
Letting the two of you to go alone.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL ACCOMPANY HIM.
TAP
Remember to close the windows!
THEN, I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU GUYS.
YES, THANK YOU.
IS THAT OKAY, RAKAN?
GOT IT
THEN TOHJI WILL ACCOMPANY THEM TOO.
JUST GO ALONG WITH WHAT HE SAID.
WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY WITH THE OTHER TWO THERE.
Let's all go in.
WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING TO DO?
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE SKY IS QUICKLY TURNING DARK.

AH,

THEN LET'S JUST DO IT.

HM,

IF YOU SAY SO,

?

YES,

I RATHER LIKE THE "NIGHTTIME", IT'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.

ME TOO,

THE LIGHT FLOWERS START SHINING

Ah!

ARE THE WINDOWS ALL SHUT?

BAMM

YOU CAN RELAX AND DO IT

OKAY!

EH?

NAMES?

The Chef Today

Then mix it with this fruit after crushing it to pieces.

Once you skin this, you can start cutting it.

Just tear the leaves and place them into the bowl.

Hm

CROWD

MIYA, TEACH US SOME KANJI.

THOSE FOUR?

YEAH, NAMES FOR THE STONE PUPPETS.

Here

CROWD

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THEN, HERE ARE A FEW SIMPLE CHARACTERS.

This this or this

SCRITCH SCRITCH

FWIP

HM...

WE WANT THESE READINGS.

HOW DO YOU WANT THE NAMES TO BE PRONOUNCED*?

*SEE TRANSLATION NOTES

POP
HEY, MIYA!
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY PICKY...
I'm fine with anything, but this is a waste of time
I WANT A CHARACTER THAT SEEMS PRETTY.
I LIKE CHARACTERS THAT SEEM STRONG.
Eh—
I WANT A COOLER CHARACTER.
I LIKE CUTE CHARACTERS!
...
I HAVE SOMETHING GOOD.
SEE!
YO, KOH
This snake really knows how to chat people up
OH, IT'S RAKAN'S STRANGE GADGET.
AND THEN PRESS THIS.
TO SEARCH FOR THIS PRONUNCIATION PRESS THIS, LIKE THIS
TACK TACK
TACK TACK
TACK TACK
TACK TACK
K I A
C K
The Captivated Word Otaku.
IT'S TOO CONVENIENT!!
EH? HOW AMAZING!
Electronic Dictionary with Kanji Character Lookup Included.
HEHEHE.

EH? KAZUHI,
NO, IT'S FINE IF I'M LAST.
YOU HAVEN'T BATHED?
The older ones bathe first.
RAT TAT T
WE'RE DONE BATHING.
WHO'S NEXT?
Two people per group
☆ AKIICHI
I SEE NOW
OH, OK.
WHY MUST HE...
SINGLE TOHJI OUT?
EH? EVERYONE ACCEPTS IT?!
I JUST WANT TO BATHE WITH TOHJI.
Observant Person
GAY...
ARE TOHJI AND THAT FELLOW ACTUALLY...?
DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE...?!
I CAN'T FATHOM WHAT'S GOING ON.
The stray thought that formed from the lack of information.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE BROTHERS THAT THEY DO THAT!
THINK STRAIGHT!
Eh?
BROTHERS ENGAGING IN THAT KIND OF BEHAVIOR?!
WHISPER.
AND THEY'RE EVEN BROTHERS!
AH.
THAT'S RIGHT, HOW IS RAKAN'S NAME WRITTEN?
IT'S REALLY TOO COOL!
WOW.
THIS GADGET DISPLAYS ALL THE WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS.
YEP
LIKE THIS.
"SAWA" RAKAN".
SAWA IS HIS SURNAME?
THAT'S RIGHT
HM?
WHAT DOES "SAWA" MEAN?
HOW STRANGE, A SINGLE CHARACTER SURNAME
RATTRATTRATT...

IT'S OKAY NOW.
OPEN ALL THE WINDOWS.
Open them all
IN THE OUTER CORRIDOR.
We can't open them?
.....
EH?
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT
YO, SENROH.
PRINCE! YOU'RE BACK?
RATTATT

PINK PETALS?
WHAT IS THIS TREE?
EH.
FLOW-ERS
THIS IS CALLED SAKURA
THESE FLOWERS!
TODAY EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE FLOWERS WHILE EATING DINNER
THIS IS CALLED "HANAMI"
"CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING"
THEY'RE OVER HERE TOO

...THE WORD, "SAWA".
...
Waaah
...
MEANS "BRILLIANCE".
SORRY ABOUT THAT
AH,
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THAT
GEEZ, SENROH,

They said I was a 'Rakan Otaku'

Rakan Otaku? What does that mean?

HOW BEAUTIFUL

YEAH..

He's also very beautiful

KLIK

LAST TIME I MENTIONED THAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE,
SO RAKAN MADE THE FLOWERS BLOOM.
I SEE.
...THANK YOU.
TAKE ONE, RAKAN GAVE THEM TO US,
AS A SPECIAL TREAT AFTER THE MEAL.
OH,
THE FRUIT IS REALLY TASTY.
UHM.
THEY'RE REALLY PRETTY, RIGHT?
HM?
AREN'T THE FLOWERS PRETTY?
THEY'RE OKAY
UWA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
So heavy!
SO THEY WERE ACTUALLY BROTHERS ...
That scared me..
HAKUBI!
OO~
☆ Just finished bathing.

OH

MEANS "BRILLIANCE"

RAKAN'S SURNAME

HM

I STILL PREFER

SEEING THE SAKURA DURING THE NIGHT TIME

OSOURA

YOU'RE STARTING TO HAVE "LOSS"

BUT IS THAT BAD?

YEP

FOR YOU NIGHTTIME SAKURA IS PREFERRED OVER DAY TIME

OH THAT'S TRUE

NEXT TIME.
I'LL LET YOU SEE SAKURA BLOSSOMS UNDER A BLUE SKY
MMMM
...I WILL CLEAR...
...ALL THE GREY CLOUDS IN THIS WORLD'S SKY. .
...AND LET YOU SEE THE BLUE SKY!

I HEARD THAT SOME PEOPLE SAW A STRANGE CREATURE.
YES,
IT WAS SOMETHING NEVER SEEN BEFORE...
IT WAS ON ITS WAY TO THE ROOF.
EH?
A MONSTER APPEARED IN THE PRINCE'S CHAMBER?
IS THE PRINCE ALRIGHT?
YES.
HE'S FINE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT KOKUYO-SAMA? HE DIDN'T COME?
THE BLACK SERPENT UNDER KINREI-SAMA.
I HEARD THAT HE SUBDUED THE MONSTER WITH HIS OWN POWER.
THE PRINCE DID?
HE'S DEFINITELY GOD'S CHILD!

TH.S.
...IS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THE "NEVER-BEFORE SEEN GIANT MONSTER" APPEARED...
THAT'S TRUE, WHY IS THAT?
THE BLACK SERPENT APPEARED WHEN THE "WIND DRAGONS" APPEARED.
AN EVENT THAT OCCURRED.
EVEN BEFORE THE "WIND DRAGONS" APPEARED ...
YES!
Before,
You mentioned
"Sae!"

You hope to "do something for me"?
So because of this
...You cannot be a sacrifice
and you want me to befriend your mother besides
WHAT IS IT?
There is something I wish for you to do
YES!
EH...?
I want you
Wait for a moment
Swish
CAN IT BE DONE?
HOW...?
The original white serpent
to change back into "Unohana"
to help "Kokuyo" the black serpent under Kinrei

SUMMER
HAP!
DIDN'T IT HURT?
Break it
HUH?
A BEAUTIFUL STONE? OR IS IT A SLAB?
HOW VERY WHITE AND RADIANT
It's a walk I packed up!
THIS IS ?
BAT
KRIE

HUFF
Y...YES!
Do as I say
EH? BUT. .
Raise it high and throw it down
CRACK
SNAP
FLUPP
PLUPP
FLUPP
PLUPP

THEY BECAME SMALL ROUND BEADS..?
Tumble
Roll
Roll
WHAT BEAUTIFUL BEADS...
ROUND AND WHITE...
THEY'RE SPARKLING..
Those are my
Cells
.. WHAT ARE CELLS?
CELLS?
CE...
...

has been taken over

and turned entirely black

But "Unohana"

I can t see it clearly

...

What I want you to do is simple

YES?

by a "black rock"

Sae

They are

"Tiny components" of my body

to the black serpent's body

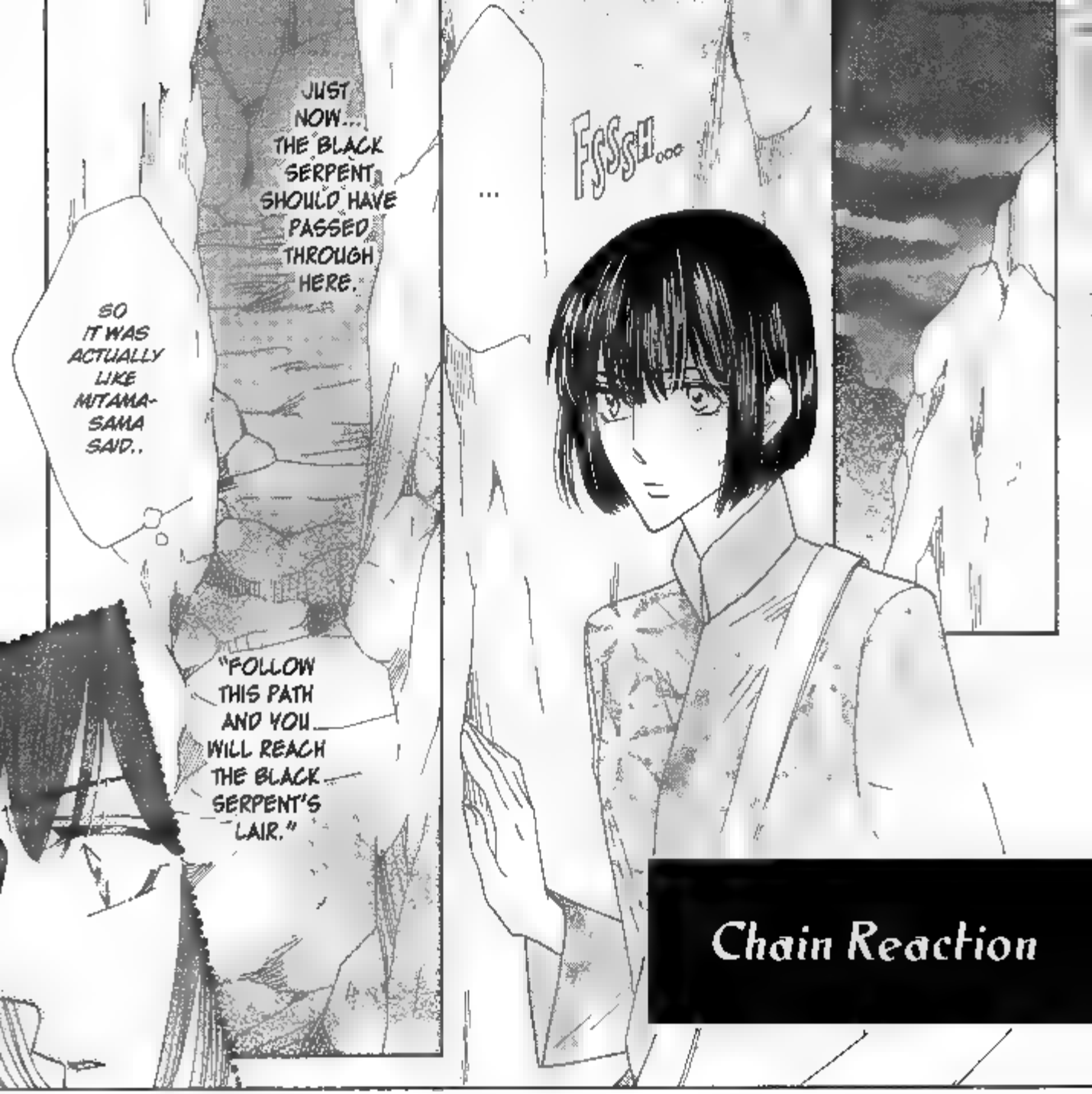
Take a part of me

and administer it to "Kokuryo s" body

One of those pieces over there

to the serpent?
Administer it?
EH?
This way.
and let Unohana recover consciousness
My will can overcome that of Kokuyo
...THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SIMPLE...?!
YES.
It's a simple task Sae
BUT...
Can you help me?

Wait, Saci
Ah, no. I mean something more durable
Before you go change into something outer from that trunk
O.Okay
LIKES TO SEE ME IN DIFFERENT CLOTHES ?
MITAMA-SAMA


JUST NOW... THE BLACK SERPENT SHOULD HAVE PASSED THROUGH HERE.
SO IT WAS ACTUALLY LIKE MITAMA-SAMA SAID..
"FOLLOW THIS PATH AND YOU WILL REACH THE BLACK SERPENT'S LAIR."
...
FSSSH...
Chain Reaction

Afterwards

Ichi ★ Raki Talk

Which character would you treat a meal to?

- The manga world is so inconvenient, so, I want to give everyone in the story a lot of good food. (I always feel so sorry for them, so, I let Rakan plant vegetables all over the place for them to eat.)
- I also want to let the following people eat
  - Tohji → Food that little kids like. (It seems that he would like that.)
  - Narushige → All kinds of Japanese food. (As a culinary lesson.)
  - Rakan → Set meals/specials. (See above.)
  - Chigusa → Fruits puddings, ice cream sundaes. (Because it's amusing to draw.)
  - Kazuhi → Same as above.
- But, truth be told, I'm not brave enough to draw their cuisine-eating expressions...

MITAMA-SAMA SAID I "SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE ITS TAIL"

...AND SURE ENOUGH...

"Open the box at the bottom of the left-hand shelf"

"Yes!"

"Listen Sae."

That black serpent will be asleep unless summoned by Kanrei

I FOUND IT...!!

!!

Use that knife to make a small cut,
And press that "tiny component" into the cut
won't that be easier than putting it into the serpent's mouth?
THIS... THIS IS...
Which means...
A KNIFE ...
OPEN
To us,
It's like being pricked by a needle
A small wound like that is nothing much
Rest assured Sae,
A "SMALL CUT"...?!
Ouch Ouch Ouch
I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE...
USING A KNIFE LIKE THIS...
BUT...
BUT...
Uhh...
...
Mitama-sama, you make it sound like nothing.
BUT...
DOESN'T GETTING PRICKED BY A NEEDLE STILL HURT?

OI, YOU...
WHAT...
ARE YOU DOING...
KYA...!
I'VE BEEN SPOTTED!!
I'M GOING TO BE EATEN.
NO WAY, I NEED TO FLEE...

...and you want me to befriend your mother besides
because you cannot be a human anymore
that you wanted to do something for me
You mentioned
"I will befriend your mother."
...I DEFINITELY CAN'T DO THIS
...BUT I...
SAID BEFORE!
GOHAACH...
KOFF
!
MITAMA-SAMA!!
AGREED TO MY REQUEST...!!
THAT'S RIGHT, I NEED TO KEEP CALM.
HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET ME THROUGH THIS WIDTH

KRACK
GRRR...
AS EXPECTED..!
THE ROCKS ARE TOO NARROW,
SO HE CAN'T ENTER
BEFORE HE CLOSES HIS MOUTH,
I SHOULD THROW IT INSIDE HIS BODY!
WHUPP
TOCK
HAPPS
!
KRICKS
KRACKS
KRICK

BROCK
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE...
...?!
BRACKS...
THE ROCKS ARE CRUMBLING.
BOTOCK
WHAT DID YOU DO!
NOW WHAT ...?
WAWM
I PUT THE BEAD INSIDE,
AND NOW ..
I CAN'T MOVE..
MY BODY CAN'T MOVE.
BROUM
WHAT IS THIS...
WHAT DID YOU PUT INSIDE ME?!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
BOTOCK
BROCK
Get out black rock!

!
THE SCALES ON THE FACE...
ARE TURNING WHITE...
TWITCH!
WHO ARE YOU...
WHAT ...?
I cannot allow Unohana"
to be taken over by something like you. !!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
You do not even know my name
AH.
AAH...
AAHHH...!
SSSSSSH...

THE SERPENT HAS TURNED WHITE...!!
THAT'S MITAMA-SAMA'S VOICE...!

EH,
THEN, NOT LONG BEFORE THAT,
CHIGUSA AND KAZUHI HAD ALREADY MADE A CONNECTION?
KAZUHI AND THE REST WERE CLIMBING UP TO THE SURFACE.
YES,
AND WHEN HE STARTED TO USE HIS "THIRD EYE" TO LOCATE ME I SPOTTED THEM.
SO WE WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE.
Using what Rokuro calls "Telepathy"
HOW DUBIOUS.
LIKE A TWO PERSON WORLD
Knows a lot of weird words.
That snake
EH?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?
Such an important thing.
RATATATT

Just finished bathing.
Ah, my hair is so fluffy.
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
TALKING ABOUT ME?
WHAT ABOUT?
HI!
YO.
AH, TOHJ.
HIS THIRD EYE IS EXPOSED.
HELLO, KAZUHI.
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR ILLICIT AFFAIRS
EH? WHAT?
ABOUT YOUR TWO-PERSON WORLD WITH CHIGUSA.
WHAT?!
YEP,
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THAT.
See?
See?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?!
IT LOOKS LIKE,
KAZUHI OFTEN GETS TEASED BY THEM...
Poor thing.
Ah, even Chigusa's teasing him.
Brothers with much in common.

EH
HUH, YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING?
Why not?
HE WAS COMMUNICATING WITH YOU, BUT HE DIDN'T TELL US.
IT'S BECAUSE CHIGUSA SAID,
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT,
Ah, it's because
I WAS THINKING THAT I SHOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING FIRST.
SO WHEN WE MET FACE-TO-FACE
I wanted to give everyone a surprise.
EVERYONE WOULD BE EVEN HAPPIER..
WAS IT WEIRD..
FOR ME TO DO THAT?
Was it strange?
RAKAN WAS TALKING ABOUT "THE LACK OF MANPOWER", TOO.
...
NOPE,

...
REALLY?
Then that's good.
SINCE WE WERE SURPRISED,
WE WERE EVEN HAPPIER.
MAYBE HE'S BECOME MORE GENTLE...
SEEMS LIKE IT.
YES.
IT'S LIKE...
...HE'S ACTING MORE LIKE A PERSON THAN BEFORE?
Serroh
He's changing?
OR HAS HE BECOME MORE CHILDISH...?
Degenerating?!
Peep
AH,
VERY GOOD.
PAT
AREN'T THEY WHAT YOU WERE WEARING WHEN WE FIRST MET?
WHY IS THAT?
ABOUT THE CLOTHES THE KINGEN'S FRONTIER GUARD WERE WEARING,
. .AH,
THAT'S RIGHT, CHIGUSA,

THAT'S BECAUSE LAST TIME,
THE FRONTIER GUARD WAS STILATED AROUND THE CAPITAL...
It must be their uniform
WHEN I FIRST AWOKE,
I JUST WORE WHATEVER I COULD FIND,
AND THAT SET OF CLOTHES WAS THE FIRST THING I FOUND
YES,
SEEING THEM REMINDED ME.
Amnesia?
I DON'T HAVE TWENTY YEARS OF MY MEMORY.
It's amnesia
YOU SAY IT SO LIGHTLY.
I SEE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
"WHEN YOU FIRST AWOKE"?
THEN, HE'S BEEN IN THIS UNAWARE STATE, WEARING THE UNIFORM OF THE KINGEN FRONTIER GUARD?
Senroh
WON'T THAT ANGER KINGEN EVEN MORE?
Definitely
AH, SO THAT'S WHY.
I THOUGHT THE CLOTHES WERE TOO HIGH-GRADE, AND WITH SUCH A UNIQUE STYLE.
He'll think he's too outrageous
BUT, CHIGUSA LOOKS GOOD IN IT
IS THE STYLE STRANGE?

Judged this already
IF YOU ACTUALLY DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU WOULD REALLY BE A PERVERT!
IF I HAD KNOWN EARLIER,
I WOULD HAVE TAKEN ONE OF THE MEN'S CLOTHES. .
And swapped it with mine
THAT PART OF HIM HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL...!
BATHTIME!
WHOSE TURN IS IT TO BATHE?
AH, ARE WE THE LAST?
YEP
AH,
IS EVERYONE PRESENT?
HAKUBI!
HM?
I HAVE THINGS TO ASK YOU, COME HERE
EH? WHAT?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY.
GRAB

EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE PRINCE AND KINRE!!
Tell me!
PLEASE TELL ME IN DETAIL.
Refreshingly...
Direct.
What'd cheerful prince
Wow
HOW CAN I SPEAK UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THIS?!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
YOU STILL DARE TO ASK "REALLY?" ..?!
WHY WOULD I TELL YOU SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
I...
Didn't I say I was the enemy before?
BUT,
NO ONE HERE WILL HARM YOU.
REALLY?
EH?

EH? ME?
I'M A NUMBER CHILD, WITH A VERY LOW STANDING,
TOMJI, WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING!!
You're a traitor anyway!
SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH.
...
HAKUBI,
THESE FEW DAYS,
WEREN'T YOU WITH KAZUHI AND THE REST?
UGH...
HUH?
SO EVEN IF WE REACH THE CAPITAL,
KINREI WILL NOT TRUST YOU ANYMORE.
NOTHING HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE WITH THEM,
...WE'RE BOTH TRAITORS,
HAKUBI.
SO WE SHOULD GET ALONG WELL,

He says it so gently.
TAKE IT AS A THREAT AND TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.
HAKUBI,
IF THAT'S THE WAY IT IS,
WAH, THEY'RE REALLY BROTHERS!!
...!!
They always have been.
They're brothers.
EH? HM, IT'S TRUE,
WITH SUCH A GOOD CHARACTER...
A PERSON LIKE YOU,
I HAVE A GOOD CHARACTER,
...
YEAH!
IS THAT OKAY?
Everyone?
No problem.
HAKUBI,
DON'T BE SCARED, JUST TALK.
AND EVEN RESOLVE TO MAKE YOU MY FRIEND!
SO...
I'LL FORCIBLY ROPE YOU IN.

WE WILL.
ALSO PROTECT YOU.
...THEY REALLY ARE..
A BUNCH OF WEIRDOS!!
BUT,
EH?
AH, SOMEHOW THE TIME FLEW..
AH,
BUT IT'S ALREADY ELEVEN.
...IS THE TRUTH..
I CAN SEE THAT WHATEVER THEY ARE SAYING..
HE SAID HE'D SPEAK TOMORROW.
Should we say he's too blunt?
Or too direct?
FORGET IT, I'LL SPEAK TOMORROW!
SORRY, HAKUBI,
WERE YOU ALREADY GOING TO SPEAK?
WHAAT?!
You were the one that asked ME!
THEN, WE'LL CONTINUE TOMORROW. LET'S SLEEP FIRST

EVERY-ONE
BREAK UP INTO GROUPS OF THREE,
AND TAKE TURNS PATROLLING EVERY HOUR.
OKAY.
GOT IT
IT REALLY IS LIKE A TRAINING CAMP.
GOOD NIGHT THEN.
GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.
HAKUB., WE'LL CONTINUE THIS TO-MORROW.
I GOT IT!
GOOD NIGHT
GOOD NIGHT!
He even says good night but...
TOHJI,
SHALL WE SLEEP TOGETHER?
IS THAT.. OKAY?
IT SHOULD BE?
You being brothers and all.
SHOULD IT BE LIKE THAT?
isn't it weird..?
IT'S FINE, GO TO SLEEP
Good night

ARE ALWAYS SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT OUT LOUD
THOSE TWO.
HOW REGRETTABLE. YOU ARE NOT BROTHERS GOOD NIGHT
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE WILL ALSO
WHOOSH
YEAH, IT'S A COMMON OCCURRENCE

WHERE
WHERE DID HE RUN TO?
HURRY, AFTER HIM!!
HERE!

THE LAST SENSEI?
WE'VE FOUND HIM!
ZAK...

HM.
WAS THAT A "DREAM?"
SSSP
ZZZ...
AH.
MORNING, CHIGUSA.
MORNING
YEP. IT'S ALMOST SEVEN.
AH, IT'S ABOUT TIME TO CHANGE SHIFTS
IS THE SKY BRIGHT?

GOOD MORNING, NARUSHIGE
MORN-ING
OKAY.
I THINK THE PATROL UNIT SHOULD HAVE SELECTED THE WILD VEGETABLES TO COOK FOR BREAKFAST
YEP,
IS IT TIME TO GET UP?
POOF!
GOOD MORNING, RAKAN.
And CHIGUSA
I SAW THOSE FRONTIER GUARDS.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE..
...
LET'S GO, CHIGUSA.
YES.
Clack
...WERE THEY MY MEMORIES...?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
SINCE I'VE...
DREAMT...

AH. HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A NAME?
Yes, a color
SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKE...
A COLOR?
Good morning!
MORNING, TSUBAKI!
Good morning!
FLAP
*NON-GENDER SPECIFIC
HUH?
THE BLUE SKY
HE SAYS.
HE STILL REMEMBERS...
KOH, WHAT DID HE* SAY?
EH?
UM
SOMETHING HAKAN SAID YESTERDAY...
YEP AND HE SAYS.
HE LIKES THAT KIND OF BLUE
So he's seen the blue sky before
He wants to see it again
THAT'S RIGHT, HE IS AN "IMMORTAL BIRD",
SO HE'S LIVED FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

Yes.

I'LL LET YOU SEE IT ONCE AGAIN...

THE BLUE SKY!

"BLUE

"AO"?

THEN, WE'LL CALL YOU "AO TSUBAKI".

"AO TSUBAKI"

EH? WHAT IS IT?

HOW CUTE!

Like a kid.

YES

ISN'T IT?

IT'S CLEAR THAT THE PRINCE CARES A LOT ABOUT "AO TSUBAKI".

THAT'S GREAT

OHO

THE PRINCE GAVE HIM A NAME?

GOT IT,
THEN FOLLOW THEM FROM AFAR.
OK.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS JUST NOTIFY US.
THEY SAID THAT...
I SEE.
THE "TSUBAKI" CARRYING THE KEY,
HAS GONE TO WHERE THE "FRONTIER GUARD" IS?
YES
THEN, ASK HIM TO FOLLOW THEM AFTER THAT
Also, "Thank you Karaku"
THEY SAID...
"THANK YOU EVERYONE".
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT YET FEEL SO CLOSE.
IT'S REALLY UNBELIEV-ABLE,
FOR THEM TO BE SO FAR AWAY.

THAT'S GOOD,
I HOPE WE CAN HELP THE PRINCE
KARAKU,
WHAT ABOUT THE BIRDS THAT WENT TO THE CAPITAL?
AH,
THE TWO OF THEM.
THEY SHOULD BE BACK SOON,
RAKAN.
Morning!
AH,
PRINCE!
YES...!
STARTING FROM THE RIGHT...
ATSUSHI, TSUYOSHI
KIYOSHI, SATOSHI,
THE NAMES FOR THE JAMON HAVE BEEN DECIDED.
AH, MORNING!
To the jamon as well.
REALLY?

蛇紋騎世士 (BEAUTIFUL)

Request

*JAMON KIYOSHI

蛇紋峯飛使 (COOL)

*JAMON SATOSHI

蛇紋聖闘司 (STRONG)

*JAMON ATSUSH

蛇紋告予詩 (KINDA CUTE)

*JAMON TSUYOSHI

THOSE WERE NAMES I PAINSTAKINGLY FOUND.
Thanks for your trouble, Miya.
Thanks, Miya.
PFFT
THE JOYRIDE BROTHERS ...!!
What a cool name.
MMM...
Hooray! Yippee!
THOSE NAMES SOUND SO ORDINARY.
I thought they would pick somethung weird.
Did not see the spelling of the characters.
ZAKURO.

...DOTE ON THEM MORE...

PERHAPS I SHOULD...

FOR TODAY.

EVERYONE STAY HERE AND REST WELL.

WE'LL MOVE OUT TOMORROW.

...OKAY?

YES.

KLINGKLANG...
YES,
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK RINRAL
TO HELP ME FIND THE GRAVE OF HER SENROH
His bones?
CRUNCH
CHIGUSA, WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HIS BONES?
UM...
Yes. what?
WHUUU
It is not.
this grave either

.. BUT I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR MEMORIES
Or see them.
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE. .
IF I. TOUCH THE BODY... OR BONES, OF SOMEONE IN MY CLAN,
THE MEMORIES OF THAT "SENROH".
I'M THINKING OF INVESTIGATING,
"ALL THE SENROHS THAT WERE KILLED"...
EH? HOW?
I WANT TO FIND OUT HOW THEY DIED...
"SAIKOMET..." WHAT IS THAT?!
"PSYCHOMETREAT"?
PSYCHOMETRY?
You can do that too?!
EH?!
SO HOW CAN YOU CARRY THINGS?
AH, BUT SPIRITS ARE TRANSPARENT,
OF COURSE YOUR MOVEMENT IS A LOT FASTER.
I'll give them to you once I find them.
but, at least I can tell if the bones are the right ones.
I can only "see" a bit
Ah you mean that method?
SO RINRAI-SAN CAN DO IT TOO.
Definitely very ghostly.

And there are a lot of unidentified graves, so
Ah but Chigusa
I don't even remember Senroh's grave
It's been 200 years.
STARTLE
I can manage small items.
If I was an evil spirit I could carry even heavier things.
SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU.
IT'S FINE,
AS LONG AS YOU FIND IT.
It might take me a long time to find it
IN FACT,
A SENROH THAT CAN SMILE...
. IS MUCH HEALTHIER THAN THE SENROH I KNEW.
No
It's fine
HE'S SMILING
BECAUSE, THIS "SENROH,"
... N OTHER WORDS, CHIGUSA...
HAS RAKAN AND THE OTHERS BY HIS SIDE...

Brush
Being a spirit is great
I can move much faster and higher without legs!
I can see much more than humans too.
SWOOSH
Phew
Let's take a break!
Whuuu
How beautiful.
There are sakura again!
In the distance
Ah!
THE GREEN...
...IS GETTING DEEPER...
...AND MORE VAST.
YOU'RE SO HARDWORKING, HUH...
RAKAN

NO
YES!
TAP
THE PEOPLE
WHO IS REBUILDING OUR WORLD
WHAT

"OVERCOME THE BLACK SERPENT'S CONSCIOUS-NESS"?!
YOU...
UM...
ARE YOU MITAMA-SAMA?
Yes
I am Mitama" ght now
Yes.
Put the bead. the part of me" nto the black serpent s body
and the black serpent will return to what it once was.
In other wor ds. my conscious ness.
Then I will awaken the conscious ness that is supposed to exist
...EH?
.....
What...
Whatever you're saying...
I don't understand at all...!!
HOW,
HOW DOES THAT WORK?
"Unohana s" consciousness.
Ah
All serpents.

...?

A long time ago.

Although we each have our own body,

we shared a single consciousness.

As time passed.

We slowly developed individual feelings.

some remembered their own "names"

and so each of us developed our own "souls"

We serpents

can communicate in our heads. in our minds

because of this.

were once

The "same being" as I was.

EH?

Ah that's right,
Humans are not the same
EH, NO...
HUMANS AREN'T LIKE THAT.
...THESE SERPENTS...
Aren't all life forms like that?
IS THAT SO...?
IT SOUNDS...
VERY STRANGE...
"Unohana"
is about to wake up
.. REALLY PECULIAR CREATURES.
Sae.
You did well
Thank you.
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT...!

Farewell Sae

Unohana is waking up.

I will be going

A deal is a deal

From now on

NOT REALLY.

you are no longer my sacrifice, or my toy.

I will befriend your mother

GRUNCH...

YES.

...

"SO PLEASE BEFRIEND MY MOTHER"

...

"I'LL DO SOMETHING FOR YOU."

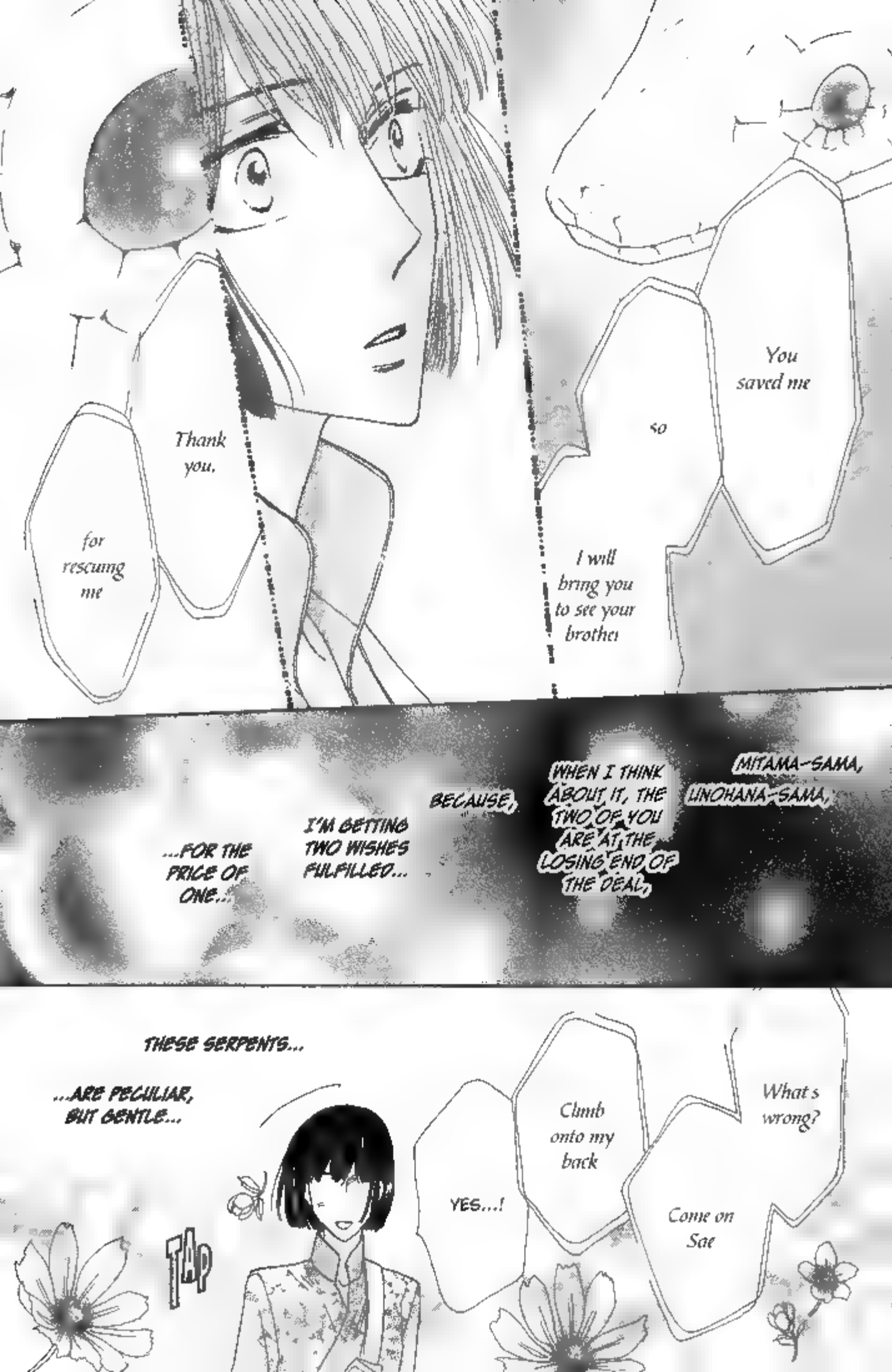
THAT'S RIGHT,

I MADE A CONTRACT WITH MITAMA-SAMA.

"DEAL"...

AH, YES!
..Are you "Sae"?
Yes
ARE YOU "UNOHANA" -SAMA?
I...
...ACTUALLY THOUGHT HE WOULD DO IT OUT OF GOODWILL.
...BUT I'M ONLY FOOLING MYSELF...
HOW EMBAR-RASS-ING
You want to "meet your brother", right?
He's still alive
in a distant place
Mitama-sama told me a lot about you.
And I also gathered information from the minds of the other serpents.
"GATHERED FROM THE MINDS"..?
Sae
It really is strange

Do you want to see him?
I THOUGHT HE HAD ALREADY DIED.
WHEN I HEARD THAT HE HAD BEEN "CALLED AWAY BY THE GODS",
REALLY?! CAN IT BE...?!
Mitama-sama is very fond of him.
Yes.
...NARUSHIGE ONII-SAMA?!
!
YES! OF COURSE!
Yes.
HE'S STILL ALIVE, ?!
I will bring you to him
Then it's a deal
No Sae
Ah
WHAT SHOULD I DO THIS TIME...?!
IT'S A DEAL AGAIN!
UM, THEN,


Thank you,
for rescuing me
You saved me
so
I will bring you to see your brother
MITAMA-SAMA, UNOHANA-SAMA,
WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THE TWO OF YOU ARE AT THE LOSING END OF THE DEAL,
BECAUSE,
I'M GETTING TWO WISHES FULFILLED...
...FOR THE PRICE OF ONE...
THESE SERPENTS...
...ARE PECULIAR, BUT GENTLE...
TAP
YES...!
Climb onto my back
Come on Sae
What's wrong?

Just climb on
Hurry!
HOW SHOULD I DO IT...?!
!!

...

※This page originally left blank.
Included for page numbering purposes.

It was too risky to have a carefree extra story beginning right after Yoruaki, so now an empty page is in between... →

Now it's time for me to greet everyone again, thank you to all the long-time readers, to those who write me letters, etc. and also to everyone who sent me gifts! ❀

The number of characters are increasing, so it's becoming harder for me (entirely my own fault). But, I will continue working diligently.

Then, till we meet again next volume!

Sugi-waka-Shiho 2007, The fragrance of Sweet Osmanthus.

• Foreign Language •

Are you discussing the talent company?!
AND JOHNNY'S "J.F.S." IS A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE.
"A WHOLE BUNCH"?
IS THAT USED TO DESCRIBE NUMBER OF PEOPLE, TOO?
What are they doing?
A study group?
"KINKI" REFERS TO A DUO, AND "TOKIO" REFERS TO A QUINTET.
OH...
SO THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN.
NISHINA
SHOJI
RAITAITA
THEN, ARE WE CALLED JOHNNY'S TOO?
ARE THE FRONTIER GUARDS JOHNNY'S TOO?
JOHNNY'S REFERS TO "ALL-MALE GROUPS", RIGHT?
The meaning.
YES, YES.
TO ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, AND YOUR FANS...
I'M TRULY VERY SORRY...!!
I HEARD YOUR NAME IN THE OTHER WORLD'S LANGUAGE IS L'ARCEN...WHAT IS IT?
L'ARC-EN-CIEL.
It sounds cool, right?
WOW
HOP
YO, KOH.

• Different Cultures •

UM...
HOW TO DESCRIBE IT? FOR EXAMPLE...
CHIGUSA KNOWS ...?
...THE CONCEPT OF CELEBRITY IDOLS...?!
HOW DO I EXPLAIN...
URGH...
UM, FIRST OF ALL, THE JOB OF A CELEBRITY IDOL IS...
Where and how do I start correcting them...
CELEBRITY IDOL?
JOB?
IMAGINE RAKAN WEARING BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES,
AND SINGING AND DANCING.
WHAT ARE YOU CHATTING ABOUT?
BUT, I ENJOY THAT KIND TOO.
...singing...
...and dancing...?
...wearing beautiful clothes?
Rakan...
...
Dancing?
Female clothes?
I THINK THE IMAGES IN YOUR HEAD ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM MINE...
How canceled something
IT'S NOT GETTING THROUGH TO THEM...
People that can only imagine a girl wearing beautiful clothes

Translation Notes

青火
Aobi
(Will-o'wisp)

The serpent-turned-swamp Rakan's party saw at the beginning of Volume 8. I couldn't find any evidence that Aobi should be translated as Aurora (though I don't have Japanese Raws, so I could be wrong) so I took its literal meaning and re-translated it as the Will-o'-wisp Swamp.

青椿
Ao Tsubaki

Broken off from the main Tsubaki, the Tsubaki that travels with them all the time has now been dubbed "Ao Tsubaki", or in other words "Blue Camellia" (I don't believe these exist in natural conditions though.)

沢 羅貫
Sawa Rakan

This volume's second chapter's title comes from the meaning of Rakan's last name. Since, as a Japanese character, 沢 can have multiple meanings, this was kind of a 50/50 to translate. The Chinese translators decided on "Wetland", which is ok, since the most direct meaning of Sawa is swamp, but isn't particularly sensible in the context of the chapter. The German version goes with "Abundance" which makes perfect sense, but I liked the Korean translation of Luster/Brilliance the best, so I went with that (though it's the most obscure meaning). The German version also acknowledges the fact that Sawa could mean "fertile valley" in a translation note...

蛇紋
Jamon

Fixed from the last volume, Hakubi actually names the stone puppets "Jamon" this time, instead of Zakuro. Miya then chooses the two Kanji on the left to be the associated spelling. Typically these two Kanji are found as part of the word "蛇紋石 (Jamonseki)", or serpentine, a group of rock-forming minerals. This follows the pattern set by Zakuro, whose name comes from "石榴石 (Zakuroishi)", or garnet.

pro-nun-ci-a-tion
漢字
Kanji

As most manga readers know, Japanese consists of both characters, or Kanji, and two phonetic alphabets. So, in this volume, when they name the Jamon's, the boys already know what pronunciations (Kiyoshi, Atsushi, etc...) they want, they just need Miya to think of Kanji that have those pronunciations and fit their requirements for meaning (beautiful, strong, etc...)

Johnny
&
Associates

The omakes make several refernces to the Japanese talent agency Johnny & Associates, whose male idol groups are collectively referred to as "Johnny's". KinKi Kids is one of their duos, and TOKIO is a five member band. The "Johnny's Jrs." are a collective term for the many trainees of Johnny & Associates who have yet to debut. And, Koh shares his name (rainbow) with another band, L'Arc~en~Ciel, but they're not a part of Johnny's. For more information, there's always Wikipedia~